

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00
USIE-00 INRE-00 OMB-01 TRSE-00 SSC-01 /050 W
-----102360 200710Z /23

O R 200635Z FEB 78

FM AMEMBASSY KABUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6644
INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

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E. O. 11652: NA
TAGS: PGOV, AF
SUBJECT: SYED ABDULILAH NAMED VICE PRESIDENT OF AFGHANISTAN

1. ON FEBRUARY 19, RADIO AFGHANISTAN ANNOUNCED THAT, IN ACCORDANCE WITH HIS POWERS UNDER ARTICLE 78(11) OF THE 1977 CONSTITUTION, PRESIDENT MOHAMMAD DAOUD HAD APPOINTED FINANCE MINISTER SYED ABDULILAH AS VICE PRESIDENT OF AFGHANISTAN. ALTHOUGH THE CONSTITUTION AUTHORIZES THE APPOINTMENT OF MORE THAN ONE VICE PRESIDENT, NO OTHER PERSONS WERE NAMED. KNOWLEDGEABLE OBSERVERS ARE ASSUMING THAT ABDULILAH WILL RETAIN HIS FINANCE PORTFOLIO, BUT THERE IS NO OFFICIAL CONFIRMATION OF THIS.

2. COMMENT: BECAUSE HE IS DEPARTING FROM AFGHANISTAN ON FEBRUARY 21 FOR A SERIES OF STATE VISITS, DAOUD PROBABLY DECIDED THAT HE SHOULD NOW OBSERVE ARTICLE 82 OF THE CONSTITUTION, WHICH REQUIRES THAT A VICE PRESIDENT -- OR VICE PRESIDENTS -- BE DEPUTIZED TO ACT IN HIS STEAD WHEN HE IS TRAVLING OUTSIDE AFGHANISTAN. DAOUD COULD NOT DO THIS BEFORE HIS VISIT TO MOSCOW LAST APRIL BECAUSE OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL REQUIREMENT THAT VICE PRESIDENTS BE MEMBERS OF THE PARTY OF THE NATIONAL REVOLUTION (PNR)

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(ARTICLE 78(11)). WHICH DID NOT EXIST AT THAT TIME. ABDULILAH IS A MEMBER OF THE PNR.

3. ABDULILAH'S APPOINTMENT WILL PROBABLY DISTURB THOSE CABINET MINISTERS WHO THREATENED THEIR RESIGNATIONS LAST NOVEMBER OVER THE COMPOSITION OF THE NEW CENTRAL COUNCIL OF THE PNR. THE MEMBER THEY MOST OPPOSED AT THAT TIME WAS ABDULILAH. HIS DESIGNATION AS

VICE PRESIDENT MIGHT SUGGEST THAT HE IS DAOUD'S CHOICE AS HIS
SUCCESSOR. END COMMENT.

4. RECOMMENDATION: THE EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT IT WOULD BE APPROPRIATE AND DESIRABLE FOR VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE TO SEND AN IMMEDIATE CONGRATULATORY MESSAGE TO VICE PRESIDENT SYED ABDULILAH. THE MESSAGE COULD ALSO OBSERVE THAT YET ANOTHER IMPORTANT STEP HAS BEEN TAKEN TO IMPLEMENT THE NEW AFGHAN CONSTITUTION. WE SUGGEST THAT THE TEXT BE TRANSMITTED TELEGRAPHICALLY TO THE EMBASSY FOR DELIVERY TO ABDULILAH.

ELIOT

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: VICE PRESIDENT, PERSONNEL APPOINTMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 feb 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Review Exemptions: n/a
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Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
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Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
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TAGS: PGOV, AF, (ABDULILAH, SYED)
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Type: TE
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